

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /077 W
----- 102974

R 210235Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3447

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 5016

NEW DELHI AND ANKARA FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJ: NARCOTICS - NEPAL

REF: A. STATE 264565

B. KATHMANDU 4904

1. DCM AND POLITICAL OFFICER (FISCHER) MET NOVEMBER 18
WITH FINANCE SECRETARY PRADHAN TO FOLLOW UP ON EARLIER
CONVERSATION REGARDING NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IN NEPAL.

2. DCM STRESSED THAT APPEARANCE OF HEROIN IN KATHMANDU
ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO DRUG PROBLEM IN NEPAL AND URGED
PRADHAN TO DEVELOP INTERDICTION CAPABILITY BY HMG CUSTOMS
ON TRAFFICKERS WHO MAY BE IMPORTING HEROIN OR OTHER HARD
DRUGS INTO NEPAL FROM ABROAD. DCM MADE CLEAR OUR
APPRECIATION FOR SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED CUSTOMS CONTROLS ON
OUTGOING TRAFFICKERS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN NUMEROUS
SEIZURES IN RECENT MONTHS. PRADHAN APPEARED RECEPTIVE AND
SAID THAT IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO WORK OUT SOA
SORT OF ALERT OR LOOKOUT SYSTEM (NO SUCH CAPABILITY EXISTS
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AT PRESENT).

3. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED GENERAL QUESTION OF HASHISH IN NEPAL AND SAID THAT OUR PRIMARY INTEREST REMAINED IN STOPPING TRAFFICKERS EXPORTING HASH AND HASH OIL (AND HARD DRUGS) FROM KATHMANDU TO U.S. WE SAID THAT MOST LEJOR TRAFFICKERS IN HARD DRUGS AT LEAST WERE FOREIGNERS AND WE ASSUMED THAT THEIR ARREST AND DEPORTATTGN WOULD NOT POSE SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GON. EMBOFFS THEN PRESENTED PRADHAN LIST OF FIVE NAMES OF REPUTED NARCOTICS DEALERS IN KATHMANDU (ALL FOREIGNERS) AND ASKED HIS ASSISTANCE IN EITHEPDGETTING THESE PERSONS EXPELLED OR ARRESTED. PRADHAN SAID THAT IN ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC LEGISLATION PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WAS MINISTRY OF FINANCE. CUSTOMS WAS CHARGED WITH PREVENTING SMUGGLING, BUT EVEN IN INSTANCES OF POSSESION, EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD JURISDICTION, NOT POLICE. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE LIST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE AGAINST THESE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS.

4. EMBOFFS RAISED QUESTION OF NOMINAL SENTENCES WHICH CONTINUE TO BE HANDED DOWN AGAINST FOREIGNERS ARRESTED FOR NARCOTICS SMUGGLING. PRADHAN SAID THAT EXCISE COURTS WERE AT PRESENT IMPOSING MAXIMUM FINE (LESS THAN \$100) ALLOWABLE UNDER THE LAW. NEW DRAFT NARCOTICS BILL, WHICH PRADHAN DESCRIBEDAS "VIRTUALLY IN FINAL FORM," PROVIDES FOR FAR GREATER PENALTIES. AS FOR IMPRISONMENT, PRADHAN SAID THAT EXCISE COURTS HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO JAIL FOREIGNERS SINCE CONDITIONS WERE LESS THAN ADEQUATE. WHEN EMBOEFS ASSURED HIM THAT THIS MIGHT ACT AS EVEN GREATER DETERRENT AND THAT JAIL CONDITIONS SHOULD NOT BE A FACTOR, PRADHAN SAID THAT HE WOULD PASS THIS OPINION ON TO EXCISE JUDGES WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT JAIL SENTENCES BE ONCE AGAIN CONSIDERED.

5. PRADHAN CONFIRMED THAT INDIA HAD RAISED ISSUE OF HASHISH SMUGGLING FROM NEPAL AT LATEST MEETING OF THE JOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE DEALING WITH THE TRADE AND TRANSIT TREATY. ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO DETAILS, HE NOTED THAT NORMAL PRACTICE ALONG INDIAN BORDER WAS FOR NEPALESE AND INDIAN BORDER OFFICIALS TO MEET ONCE A MONTH TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION. WE URGED NEPALESE TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF NARCOTICS SMUGGLING IN THESE REGULAR TALKS.

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6. PRADHAN RAISED QUESTION OF ALTERNATE SOURCES OF INCOME FOR GROWERS OF GANJA IN WESTERN HILLS, SAYING THAT UN HAD DEVELOPED SOME PROJECTS TO ASSIST CROP SUBSTITUTION PROBLEM. AS YET NOTHING HAD COME OF THESE PROPOSALS AND THE ISSUE HAD REMAINED DORMANT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WE OFFERED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN ENCOURAGING UN AGENCIES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THESE PLANS, AND PRADHAN SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE

QUESTION OF WHERE THESE PROJECTS STOOD WITHIN HMG
BUREAUCRACY.

7. EMBOFFS REMINDED PRADHAN OF OUTSTANDING INVITATION
TO DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS PANDE TO VISIT UNITED STATES.
PRADHAN SAID THAT PANDE HAD ONLY RECENTLY BEEN CONFIRMED
AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS AND THAT UP UNTIL THIS POINT
HMG DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT INVITATION UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR
THAT PANDE WOULD REMAIN WITH CUSTOMS. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW
UP STATUS OF INVITATION WITH MFA NEXT WEEK. CARGO

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